







## THE INDIANA TRAILS VISION

To build a statewide trail, greenway and bikeway system that provides access to a trail opportunity within 15 minutes of all Indiana citizens.

### THE INDIANA STATE TRAILS PLAN GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The Indiana State Trails Plan's goal and objectives propose to fulfill Indiana's trails vision through:

- Partnering federal, state and local governments with trail use groups and organizations, businesses, private funding entities, community groups and citizens to connect communities through a statewide multi-model network of greenways and trail system.
- Encouraging public and private sectors to develop combined trail and infrastructure opportunities that will support the development of Indiana communities with utility and recreational needs for the 21st century.
- Educating the public and private sectors about the benefits a statewide greenways and bikeways system will bring their communities in terms of health, fitness, tourism, infrastructure and economic advantages.
- Highlighting links to neighboring state, local and regional trails systems and places of interest.
- Endorsing the use of greenways and bikeways as an economic growth asset to the state of Indiana, its communities and its citizens.
- Creating a healthier and more livable state for the benefit of all citizens.

### INDIANA TRAILS GOAL, OBJECTIVES, STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

Based on the information presented in the remainder of this document, the following goal, objectives and actions have been set for providing trails in Indiana. It is important to note that this plan provides opportunities at the federal government, state government, local government and the grass roots level to participate in reaching the goal. Providing for the need of trails users in Indiana will require partnerships and teamwork

among all four levels. The goal is ambitious. By working together, it can be accomplished.

### INDIANA TRAILS GOAL:

A trail within 15 minutes of every Hoosier by 2016. The Indiana trails goal will be measured in terms of having a trail within 7.5 miles of every Hoosier.

**Objective 1:** Partner Federal, State, Local, Not-for-profit and private resources to build a statewide network of trails

**Objective 2:** Support non-state entities that acquire, develop and manage trails

These objectives can be met through implementing the following strategies. Federal, state, local and non-governmental agencies working together can utilize these strategies to address trails related issues pertinent to their situation. Taking coordinated action at multiple levels will create a statewide environment where the statewide trails network can grow and become an integral part of the lives of Indiana's citizens and will reflect directly on the state's economy as a whole.

### STRATEGY 1: IMPROVE COORDINATION OF TRAIL DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING AND DESIGN AT LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL LEVELS





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**Action 1:** Encourage interested and affected representatives including urban and rural landowners, not-for-profits, the agriculture community, businesses, public transit and governmental entities to get involved in all phases of developing new trails

**Action 2:** Secure the participation of representatives in the health and wellness profession and related businesses, such as insurance and pharmaceutical industries

**Action 3:** Ensure that trails are included in road right-of-ways, road abandonment and bridge development and expansion projects

**Action 4:** Include engineers, architects and planners during all phases of trail development to ensure natural resource preservation and ADA compliance

**Action 5:** Foster a working statewide support network composed of agencies, legislators, planners/designers, organizations, managers and citizens interested in trail development

### **STRATEGY 2: INCREASE TRAIL FUNDING TO PROVIDE TRAILS TO MEET PRESENT AND FUTURE DEMAND**

**Action 1:** Initiate and increase state funding mechanisms to augment annual operating budgets and capital expenditures for acquiring and developing trails

**Action 2:** Encourage local initiatives for trail funding

**Action 3:** Encourage and provide incentives for private funding for trails from such entities as foundations and corporations

**Action 4:** Include funding for long-term trail maintenance in operational budgets

**Action 5:** Encourage and support not-for-profits to acquire and develop trails

**Action 6:** Encourage and support public and private partnerships that acquire and develop sustainable trails and bikeways

### **STRATEGY 3: ACQUIRE MORE LAND FOR TRAILS**

**Action 1:** Identify and extend opportunities for intra- and inter-state trail connections

**Action 2:** Improve the acquisition process of former railroad corridors for trail development

**Action 3:** Advocate that trails be included in land-use planning, including re-negotiation of road right-of-ways and bridge developments

**Action 4:** Advocate that developers be required to set aside land for trails

**Action 5:** Expand the number of areas available for the legal use of ATVs, motorcycles, off-road bicycles and off-highway vehicles



**STRATEGY 4: PROVIDE INCREASED EDUCATION ABOUT TRAILS AND TRAIL BENEFITS**

- Action 1:** Encourage and support research on Indiana trails and related issues
- Action 2:** Inform the public about the health, economic and social benefits of trail use
- Action 3:** Develop and distribute educational materials about trail use and environmental ethics/etiquette
- Action 4:** Distribute information on trails via the Internet and other media
- Action 5:** Install signs that interpret natural, historical and cultural features of trails
- Action 6:** Install multilingual signs where appropriate
- Action 7:** Encourage the development of design guidelines that use standardized signs and symbols to designate trail activities and facilitate trail navigation statewide
- Action 8:** Include health education information on trail maps and guides

**A STATE VISIONARY TRAILS NETWORK**

A statewide trails vision map was created based on extensive inventory, analysis, coordination with local governments and regional planning entities, and public input. This map's purpose is to highlight corridors of national,

state or regional importance that connect communities to each other and to natural and cultural resources, to serve as a statewide trails backbone network that can connect to concurrent and future trails-planning efforts. The map delineates corridors. The actual placement of trails within these corridors and the inclusion of other corridors in the statewide trails system will be determined as specific trails projects are proposed and completed based on more detailed planning efforts.

**CRITERIA USED TO ESTABLISH PROPOSED VISIONARY TRAILS SYSTEM**

The following criteria were used to identify trails included on the list of trails of statewide significance—those trails that offer the highest potential to accommodate multiple connections to destinations and communities. Not all trails in Indiana were considered. Loop trails or those located solely on a single property such as state parks or forests were not considered. The designated use of a trail was not a consideration.

In order to be placed on the list a trail must have satisfied both of the following criteria:

1. Proposed trail corridor crosses two or more counties
2. Proposed corridor contains trail segments completed, under development or formally planned

The following lists of trails describe how each trail included in the list of statewide significant trails was clas-





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sified in terms of each individual trail's planning and/or development stages.

Formally designated or being developed as trail corridor

- American Discovery Trail
- Monon Trail in Marion and Hamilton Counties
- Cardinal Greenway from Richmond to Marion
- Knobstone Trail in Clark, Scott and Washington Counties

Focus of study or plan for trail corridor

- National Road Heritage Trail from Terre Haute to Richmond
- Marquette Greenway in northern Lake, Porter and LaPorte Counties

I-69 corridor from Indianapolis to Evansville

Formal organization devoted to development of trail corridor

- B&O Trail in Marion, Hendricks, Putnam and Parke Counties
- Knobstone Trail extension to Morgan County
- Panhandle Pathway from Winamac to Logansport
- Wilbur Wright Trail connecting New Castle with the Cardinal Greenway

Considerable level of discussion as proposed trail corridor

- Farm Heritage Trail in Boone and Tippecanoe Counties
- Old Interurban Trail from Ft. Harrison to Anderson
- Whitewater Canal Trail in Fayette and Franklin counties
- SR46 Trail in Bartholomew and Brown counties
- Wabash Heritage Trail from Lafayette to Logansport
- Pumpkintown/St. Joseph River corridor in St. Joseph, Elkhart and LaGrange counties
- Upstate Indiana Trail in Wells, Allen, DeKalb and Steuben counties

As a result of public participation and public comment received during development of the state trails plan, other potential visionary trails were identified

- South Shore/NIPSCO corridor from Michigan City to South Bend
- U.S. Route 31 corridor from South Bend to Rochester
- U.S. Route 35 corridor from Winamac to Bass Lake
- Wabash River/U.S. 24/Maumee River corridor from Logansport to Ohio state line
- U.S. Route 31/S.R. 19 corridor from Kokomo to Westfield/Noblesville
- Wabash River/West Central Indiana corridor connector from Vigo County to Tippecanoe County
- State Road 1 corridor from the National Road Heritage Trail to Connersville
- S.R. 46 corridor from Bloomington to Nashville
- Honey Creek corridor between Anderson and New Castle
- State Road 3 corridor between New Castle and the National Road Heritage Trail

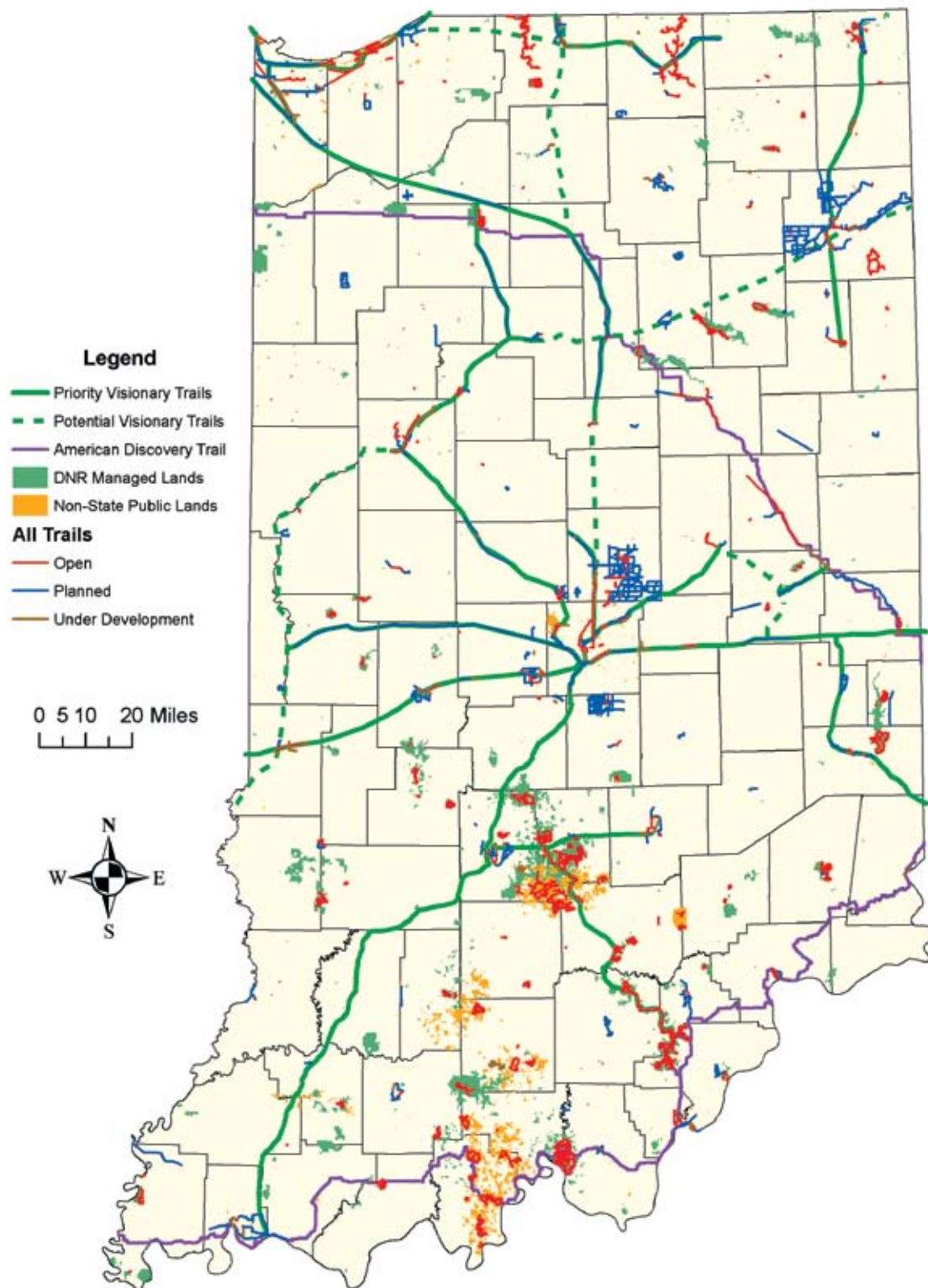
## DEVELOPING THE PLAN

The Indiana Trails Plan was developed by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Outdoor Recreation and the Indiana Department of Transportation. A Trails Plan steering committee was convened to provide input and guidance as the plan was developed. The steering committee consisted of DNR Staff and members of various agencies and associations involved in trails and trail related issues throughout Indiana. The committee met periodically to review the document, maps and issues, and to plan for involving the public in the process. The following groups were represented on the steering committee:

- Governor's Office
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources
- Indiana Department of Transportation
- Indiana Economic Development Corporation
- Governor's Council for Physical Fitness & Sports
- Indiana Office of Tourism
- The Federal Highway Administration
- National Park Service-Rivers Trails and Conservation Assistance Program
- Indiana Park & Recreation Association
- Bloomington Area Transportation System
- Indiana Trails Advisory Board
- Hoosier Rails to Trails Council
- Indiana Greenways Foundation
- Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
- Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Northwest Indiana Regional Plan Commission
- Delaware-Muncie Metropolitan Plan Commission
- Indiana Bicycle Coalition
- IU School of Public Environmental Affairs/Indiana Planning Association
- Indiana Association of Cities & Towns
- Association of Indiana Counties
- Indiana Farm Bureau
- Pigeon Creek Greenways Passage
- Ohio River Greenway Commission
- National Road Heritage Trail
- Cardinal Greenways
- Whitewater Canal Trail
- B&O Trail Association
- City of Ft. Wayne
- Indiana Chamber of Commerce
- Indiana Trail Riders Association/Indiana Horse Council
- The Nature Conservancy-Indiana Chapter
- Indiana Chapter-International Right of Way Association
- Indiana Rural Development Council/Office of Rural Affairs



## Making the Connections Indiana's Trail System



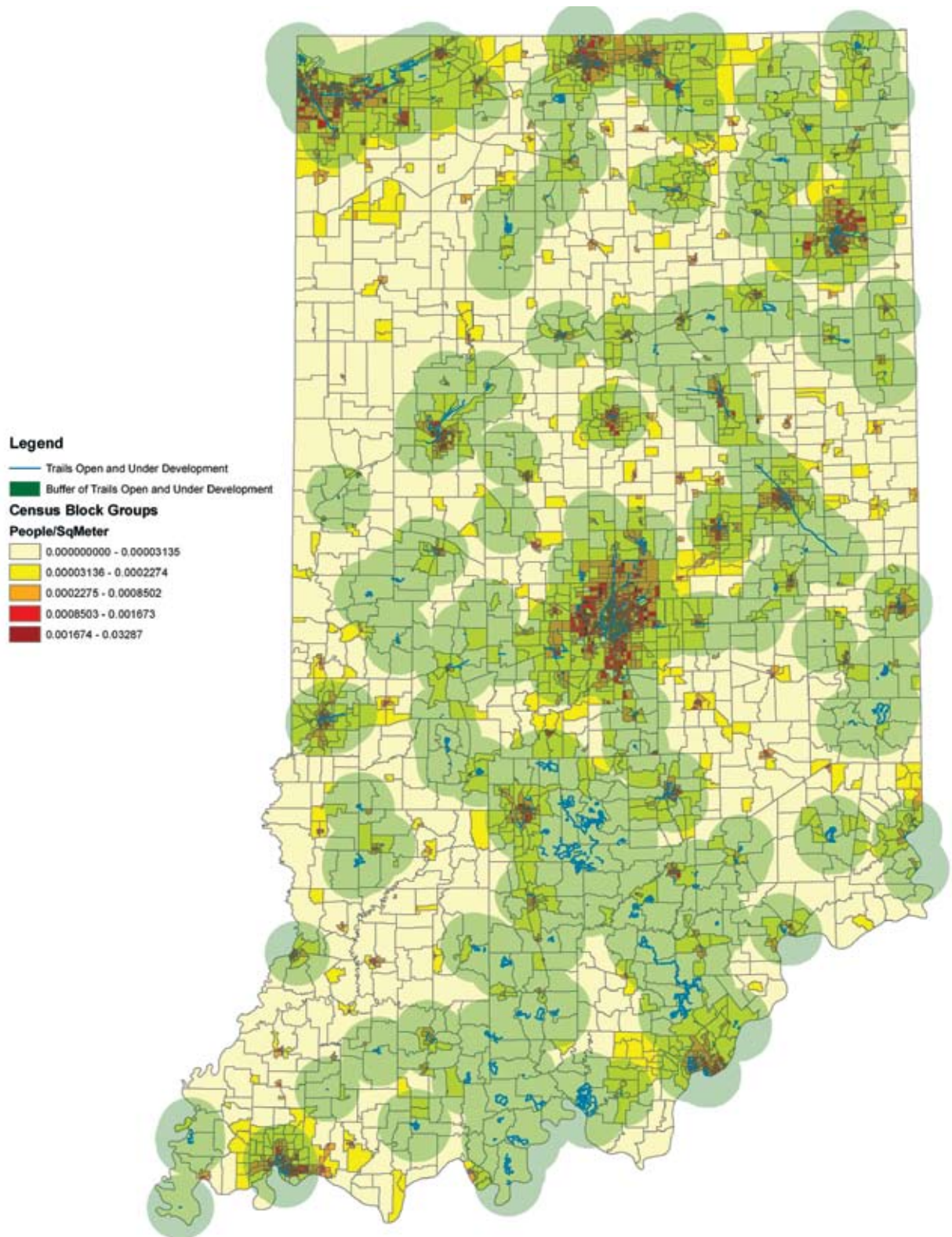
*A vision of the Indiana State Trails System (July, 2006)*





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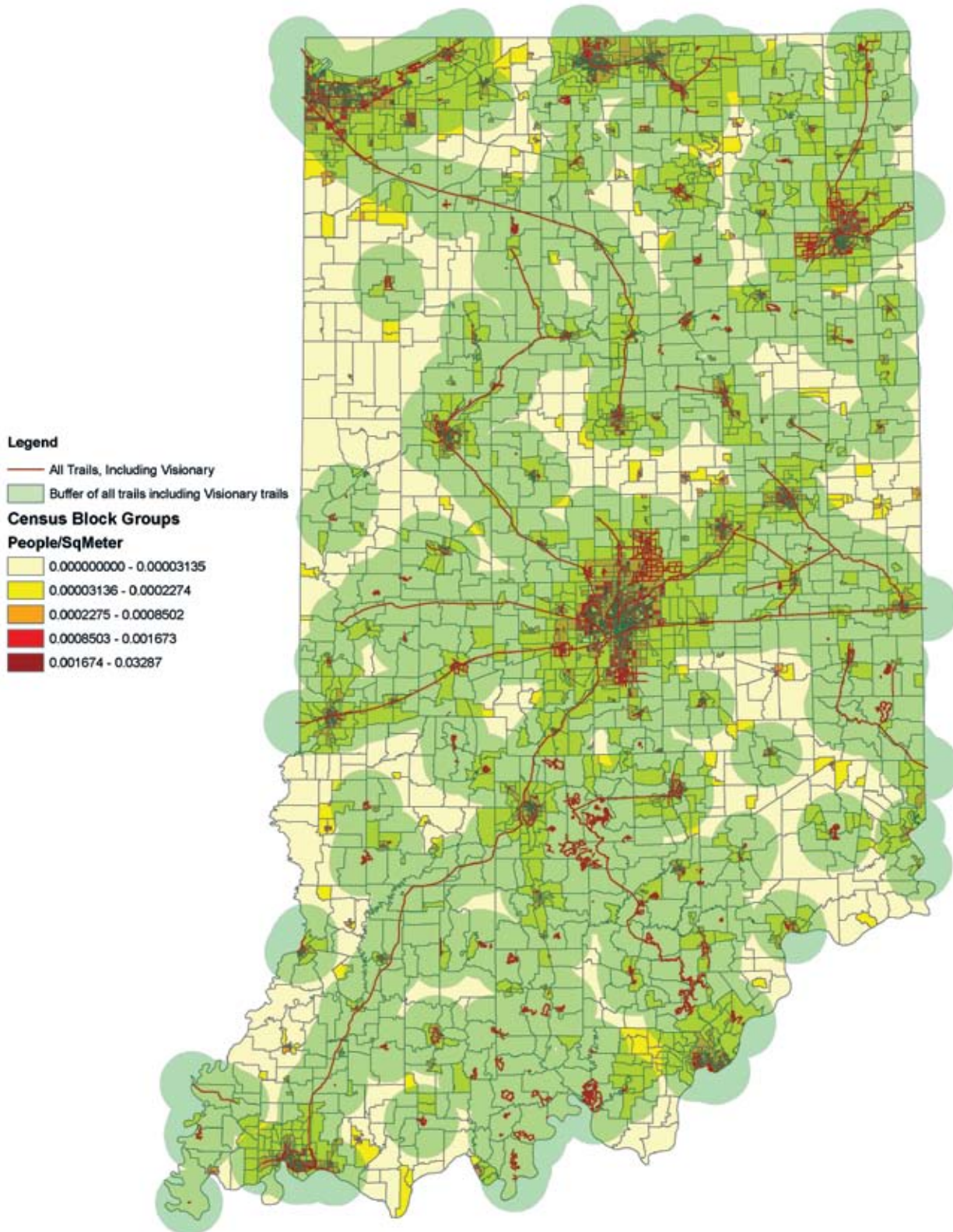
### Measuring progress on Indiana's trail system Current Status



*Population within 7.5 miles of a currently developed trail*



## Measuring progress on Indiana's trail system Visionary Status



*Population within 7.5 miles of a trail developed, planned and visionary*